(a) whether any survey has been conducted regarding the marriage age of girls in the country; and

(b) if so the name of the State in which it is highest, and details thereof in rural as well as Urban areas separately in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M.JACOB): (a) During Census operations information has been elicited from all even-married women about the age at marriage.

(b) According to the 1981 Census, the mean age at marriage was the highest in Mizoram and Nagaland States being 20.2 years for currently married women. In Mizoram the mean age at marriage was 20.1 years in rural areas and 20.5 years in urban areas. In Nagaland, the mean age at marriage was 20.4 years in rural areas and 19.2 years in urban areas. 1991 census results ate yet to be tabulated.

Creation of Separate Body for problems of Newspaper Industry

1606. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of INFOMRATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government for creation of separate body to go into the problems of the newspaper industry and help them restore their position; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) No such proposal is under consideration of Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Seizure of Arms on the Border

1607. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any seizure of arms on the Indo-Pak border in Rajasthan during the last six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof, date-wise and area-wise; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to check such illegal arms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M.JACOB): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The details of arms seized, date-wise and area-wise during the last 6 months are given in the Statement attached.

(c) With a view to preventing smuggling, border forces have been strengthened, both in force and in equipment and weaponry. Border fencing and flood-lighting is being done in specified areas. The intelligence set up of the border forces has also been geared up and further strengthened for keeping close surveillance on the border.